



Citation: L. Campanella (2020) Even Covid-19 could teach us something if we were good students! *Substantia* 4(1) Suppl. 1: 917. doi: 10.13128/Substantia-917

Received: Apr 19, 2020

Revised: Apr 22, 2020

Just Accepted Online: Apr 27, 2020

Published: Apr 27, 2020

Copyright: © 2020 L. Campanella. This is an open access, peer-reviewed article published by Firenze University Press (<http://www.fupress.com/substantia>) and distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Data Availability Statement: All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Competing Interests: The Author(s) declare(s) no conflict of interest.

Editorial

Even Covid-19 could teach us something if we were good students!

Luigi Campanella

Department of Chemistry, Sapienza University, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Rome, Italy
*Corresponding author: luigi.campanella@uniroma1.it

In these dramatic times most of the attention is paid to the statistics of recovered, dead and infected people. But here I would point out another aspect that can make us able to forget even for a very short moment the terrible statistics I mentioned above and open us to hope.

While we are closed and locked in our homes nature seems to take a breath. Some days ago, a family of ducks walking around in a desert Florence and looking for something to eat inspired an incredible feeling of tenderness. This was just the latter of a series of images available on the web, at the same time disquieting, romantic and bucolic, that illustrate the amazing transformation of nature and of fauna in the time of this pandemic.

These images disquiet because we never saw so many animals walking free down the streets of our cities, in places that are now empty and neglected and that just two months ago were palpating of life. These images are romantic and bucolic as they show that despite the war bulletins of death of these weeks nature wants to speak of continuing life. However this is not the only subject on which we have to ponder.

The vision of our earth from the space is deeply changed. If we start from Italy, we can see the Po Valley finally smog-free: the yellow and red colours of the meteomaps representing different levels of pollution recorded in January and February 2020 left room to a pure atmosphere.

The air pollution of this area has led to pathologies and deaths: we must recall and think about the last conclusion of the Environment European Commission. There, it was stated that due to nitrogen oxides pollution in Italy during the last year about 15 thousand people died! During this pandemic the concentration of these dangerous pollutants fell abruptly about 50% of the initial values.

Another data reported in these days indicates that in 20 days the carbon dioxide level measured in the State of New York is the same as that produced during a whole year. This occurred because of the turned off diesel engines, of the reduced industrial work, civil activities and airflights. But other pictures force us to reflect: the hares in the parks in Milan, the transparency of the water in the Venice lagoon that make that allow us to see swimming fish, and the dolphins in the Cagliari's harbour.

The question is: will we be able to learn a lesson from what Covid-19 has taught us on the social, civil and scientific side about new lifestyles and more active interactions between medicine and other disciplines?